



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 5170**

February Session, 2022



**AN ACT CONCERNING THE TETHERING AND SHELTERING OF DOGS.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 22-350a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2022*):

3 (a) No person shall tether a dog to a stationary object or to a mobile  
4 device, including, but not limited to, a trolley or pulley (1) by means of  
5 [:(1) A] a (A) tether that does not allow such dog to walk at least eight  
6 feet, excluding the length of such dog as measured from the tip of such  
7 dog's nose to the base of such dog's tail, in any one direction, [(2) a] (B)  
8 tether that does not have swivels on both ends to prevent twisting and  
9 tangling, unless a person is in the presence of such dog, [(3) a] (C) coat  
10 hanger, choke collar, prong-type collar, head halter or any other collar,  
11 halter or device that is not specifically designed or properly fitted for  
12 the restraint of such dog, [(4) a] (D) tether that has weights attached or  
13 that contains metal chain links more than one-quarter of an inch thick,  
14 or [(5) a] (E) tether that allows such dog to reach an object or hazard,  
15 including, but not limited to, a window sill, edge of a pool, fence, public  
16 road or highway, porch or terrace railing that poses a risk of injury or  
17 strangulation to such dog if such dog walks into or jumps over such  
18 object or hazard, unless a person is in the presence of such dog; (2) in a  
19 manner that places such dog at adverse risk of injury by another animal;

20 or (3) for more than fifteen minutes without providing such dog  
21 continuous access to sanitary drinking water in a liquid state. The  
22 provisions of [subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection] subparagraph  
23 (A) of subdivision (1) of this subsection shall not be construed to apply  
24 to: [(A)] (i) Any veterinary practice licensed pursuant to section 20-197  
25 that tethers a dog in the course of such veterinary practice, [(B)] (ii) any  
26 exhibition, show, contest or other temporary event in which the skill,  
27 breeding or stamina of such dog is judged or examined, [(C)] (iii) any  
28 exhibition, class, training session or other temporary event in which  
29 such dog is used in a lawful manner to hunt a species of wildlife during  
30 the hunting season for such species of wildlife or in which such dog  
31 receives training in a lawful manner to hunt such species of wildlife,  
32 [(D)] (iv) the temporary tethering of a dog at any camping or recreation  
33 area as expressly authorized by the Commissioner of Energy and  
34 Environmental Protection, or [(E)] (v) the temporary tethering of a dog  
35 at a grooming facility in the course of grooming such dog.

36 (b) [No person shall tether a dog outdoors to a stationary object or to  
37 a mobile device, including, but not limited to, a trolley or a pulley,  
38 when] When a weather advisory or warning is issued by [local, state or  
39 federal authorities] the National Weather Service, or when outdoor  
40 environmental conditions, including, but not limited to, extreme heat,  
41 cold, wind, rain, snow or hail, pose an adverse risk to the health or safety  
42 of [such] a dog based on such dog's breed, size, age, thickness of coat or  
43 physical condition, [unless tethering is for a duration of not longer than  
44 fifteen minutes] no person shall (1) tether such dog outdoors to a  
45 stationary object or mobile device, including, but not limited to, a trolley  
46 or pulley, unless such tethering is for a duration of not more than fifteen  
47 minutes, or (2) fail to provide such dog adequate shelter for a duration  
48 of more than fifteen minutes, unless such person is in the presence of  
49 such dog and outdoors during such advisory or warning or exposed to  
50 such outdoor environmental conditions.

51 (c) Nothing in this section shall be construed to affect any protection  
52 afforded to any dog pursuant to any other provision of the general

53 statutes, regulations of the Connecticut state agencies, local ordinance  
54 or local regulation.

55 (d) Any person who confines or tethers a dog for an unreasonable  
56 period of time or in violation of the provisions of subsection (a) or (b) of  
57 this section shall be fined one hundred dollars for the first offense, two  
58 hundred dollars for a second offense, and not less than two hundred  
59 fifty dollars or more than five hundred dollars for a third or subsequent  
60 offense.

61 (e) For the purposes of this section, "adequate shelter" means a  
62 structure that (1) provides natural or artificial light during daylight  
63 hours; (2) offers space adequate for a dog to sit, lie down and turn; (3) is  
64 soundly constructed, maintained in good repair and free from  
65 accumulated animal waste, debris, precipitation and moisture; (4)  
66 contains sanitary drinking water in a liquid state; (5) during cold  
67 outdoor environmental conditions described in subsection (b) of this  
68 section, (A) is enclosed and insulated to an extent sufficient to permit a  
69 dog to maintain normal body temperature, (B) features a solid roof, solid  
70 walls and wind-protected opening for entry and exit, (C) is raised off  
71 the ground, and (D) contains dry bedding; (6) during extreme heat  
72 outdoor weather environmental conditions described in subsection (b)  
73 of this section, provides shade and ventilation sufficient to permit a dog  
74 to maintain normal body temperature; (7) does not contain a space  
75 heater or wood or fuel burning equipment utilized for space heating; (8)  
76 is not located under exterior stairs or underneath or inside a motor  
77 vehicle; and (9) if constructed using wire or metal chain links, such links  
78 are appropriately sized so that a dog's paws will not become caught in  
79 such links.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2022	22-350a

**Statement of Legislative Commissioners:**

In Subsec. (a), Subparas. (A) to (E), inclusive, were redesignated as Subsecs. (a)(i) to (a)(v), inclusive, for consistency with standard drafting conventions.

**PD**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*